

**Special section**

The Post looks at events in 2005

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Fort Riley Post

**Soldiers, families march**

70th Engineers, 541st Combat Service Support Battalion, Morris Hill students donate toys for Christmas

Page 4

Thursday, December 22, 2005

America's Warfighting Center

Vol. 48, No. 51

Last issue for 2005

This is the last issue of the Post for 2005. The next issue will be distributed Jan. 6.

Around the bases**Sicily:**

The European Stars and Stripes reported Dec. 20 that cars were damaged, furniture ruined and memories drowned at the Maranai military housing complex at Naval Air Station Sigonella II, where a devastating flood Dec. 14 had forced the evacuation of 475 families.

Sylvia and Ivan Roman took down their Christmas tree Dec. 19 — a week before Christmas. The plastic tree was a total loss, but they'd managed to save the ornaments.

Their couch also was a total loss. They're working to save furniture bought on their last tour in Japan. They had managed to save their Persian rugs.

But they and other residents are quick to point out the silver lining: No one died. No one was hurt.

By Dec. 24, some families will be able to move back into base housing that sustained little or no damage and have power and running water. Of the 526 units, 62 sustained no water damage, 210 had 1 to 5 inches of water, 136 were flooded in 6 to 11 inches of water and 118 had 12 inches or more.

For more on this story and other U.S. military news in the European and Pacific theaters, visit www.estripes.com on the Web.

Fort Knox:

The Turret reported Dec. 15 that a military spouse living at Fort Knox, Ky., was skating back into competition.

Dianna-Lynne Wells laced on her first pair of ice skates when she was 8 years old and soon developed Olympic skating aspirations.

But Wells' dream was cut short when she broke a knee during a freestyle practice session while attempting a triple lutz maneuver.

She was 12 years old. After a period of life changes and adjustment, Wells began to enter local competitions and, when she turned 25, she competed in the U.S. nationals. She won the U.S. Adult National Masters Inter-pretive Championship and took the Silver Medal in the Championship Masters Freestyle event.

For more on this story and other Fort Knox, Ky., news, visit www.thenewcenterprise.com/turret/ on the Web.

Fort Belvoir:

The Belvoir Eagle reported Dec. 15 that more than \$332,467 had been raised in this year's Combined Federal Campaign. The installation's overall goal was just over \$232,000.

More than \$800 was raised for the campaign during its final fundraiser, a silent auction held at the Community Center.

For more on this story and other Fort Belvoir, Va., news, visit www.belvoireagle.com/ on the Web.

Post, union reps sign accord

Ceremony renews collective bargaining agreement for civilian employees

By Anna Morelock

Staff writer

The post's commanding general and a representative of American Federation of Government Employees Local 2324 renewed

the collective bargaining agreement between Fort Riley and the union at a short ceremony in the post headquarters Dec. 19.

"I feel like we must be doing a good thing if we're all in agreement on this, getting ready to

move forward into the new year and into the future," said Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commander of Fort Riley and the 24th Infantry Division (Mech) after signing the agreement.

The new agreement is binding

for three years and represents all appropriated and non-appropriated fund employees working for U.S. Army Garrison, Medical Department Activity and Dental Activity and registered nurses employed by MEDDAC.

Negotiations for the contract began in January, 2005. A copy of the agreement is available to all employees covered by the agreement and can be obtained from the employee's activity-level administrative section.

Top squad



1st Bn., 16th Inf., S3 Photo

A 1st Bn., 16th Inf., Soldier tosses a grenade into a bunker as part of the squad competition conducted this month.

Iron Ranger squads vie for top honors

By Ryan Savage and David McCrea

1st Bn., 16th Inf.

1st Bn., 16th Inf., S3 Photo
Iron Rangers program an MBTR radio for use.

Iron Rangers of 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, kicked off training right after Thanksgiving with squad skills events, the first phase of the Sgt. Robinson Squad Competition.

The Iron Rangers named the competition in honor of Sgt. James W. Robinson Jr., a 16th Inf. Soldier who earned the Medal of Honor while serving in the Vietnam War.

Iron Ranger squads were tested on critical combat tasks. Evaluators judged each squad's success in knocking out a bunker, putting radios into operation, zeroing lasers for night firing and rendering first aid.

The skills included loading required operational information into a radio, sending a message using proper radio procedures and programming the unit's new radios. The Soldiers also zeroed lasers for firing the M4 carbine rifle, M249 Squad

Automatic Weapon and M240B machine gun for firing at night.

Evaluators also tested Soldiers in each squad on their ability to perform first aid by applying a pressure dressing and tourniquet and using the new combat medical battle kit.

Competition covered a day and a half of training and a day and a half of testing. The best squad would earn a day off.

Members of the 2nd Squad, 2nd Platoon, in Company A proved to be the best at knocking out a bunker.

Two squads tied in communications proficiency Company C's 2nd Squad, 2nd Platoon, and 1st Squad, 1st Platoon.

Members of Co. C's 1st Squad, 2nd Platoon, owned the night, scoring the best average in the three laser zeroing events.

The majority of the Iron Ranger squads performed perfectly in the first aid competition.

Overall, the Iron Rangers of 3rd Squad, 3rd Platoon, Company A, placed in the top

See Squads, Page 3

4 more Soldiers killed in Iraq

Staff report

Four 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor, Soldiers died Dec. 13 when an improvised explosive device detonated near the "Humvee" they were in while conducting combat operations in Taji, Iraq.

Sgt. Peter J. Navarro, 20, of Wildwood, Mo.; Sgt. Brian C. Karim, 22, of Talcott, W.Va.; and Staff Sgt. Michael S. Zyla, 32, of Elgin, Ore., were members of Company A. Spc. James C. Kesinger, 32, of Pharr, Texas, was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company.

Navarro was an M-1 tank crewman. He entered the Army in July 2003 and arrived at Fort Riley in December 2003. He was on his first deployment to Iraq.

Karim also was a tank crewman. He entered the Army in August 2002 and arrived at Fort Riley in February 2003. He was on his second deployment to Iraq.

Zyla was a tank commander. He entered the Army in March 1998 and arrived at Fort Riley in August 2002. He was on his second deployment to Iraq.

Kesinger was a health care specialist. He entered active duty from the National Guard in December 2002 and arrived at Fort Riley in September 2004. He was on his second deployment to Iraq.

This incident brings the number of Fort Riley active duty Soldiers who have died while serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom to 65. About 37,000 post Soldiers are deployed to Iraq.



Sgt. Brian Karim



Spc. James Kesinger



Spc. Peter Navarro



Staff Sgt. Michael Zyla

New office staff will help home buyers

By Anna Morelock

Staff writer

A giant pair of scissors held by new homeowners Spc. Shane Warren, his wife, Cathryn, and son, Ethan, snipped the red ribbon at the new USDA Rural Develop-

ment Housing Office at Fort Riley Dec. 13. The parting of the ribbon brought to fruition an agreement signed by the two federal entities in June of this year.

"This is a historic agreement between two federal entities, and quite honestly that's the way the federal government should work

partnering together to help so many people," said Chuck Banks, Kansas director of USDA Rural Development.

The USDA office at Fort Riley will provide Soldiers and civilians with loan prequalification, homebuyer counseling and financing options to buy off-post housing in

rural areas. Eligible areas are communities of less than 20,000 population, which includes nearly 100 communities in 11 counties surrounding Fort Riley.

Kansas is guaranteed \$47 million in assistance through the

See Buyers, Page 2



Post, Army news briefly

Correction

The Post erroneously reported last week that four members of the radar section deploying to Iraq had been home only three months.

They were notified of their return to Iraq in September 2004, three months after coming home, but had been home for 15 months before deploying again.

Cell phone use restricted

Beginning Jan. 1, drivers on Fort Riley will be prohibited from using a cell phone while driving unless they use a hands-free device. Post law enforcement officers already are issuing warning citations. Citations for court appearances and fines will be issued after the first of the year.

Wackenhut rep to visit post

A recruiter from The Wackenhut Corporation will be at the Army Career and Alumni Program Center (Room 6, Building 210) from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Jan. 12. The recruiter will be providing information about the company, accepting applications and conducting preliminary interviews for armed elite custom protection officer openings in Ft. Lauderdale, Boca Raton and West Palm Beach, Fla.

Fort Riley concert to air

The "Best of America by Horseback" concert filmed at Fort Riley Nov. 29 will air at 2 p.m. Dec. 23 on DirecTV channel 379 and at 5 p.m. Dec. 25 on Dish TV channel 9409.

It also will air on Fort Riley cable channel 2 following "In Step with Fort Riley" Dec. 24-26.

Holidays alter trash pickup

The trash pickup schedule on post will change Dec. 26-30 and Jan. 2-6 in observance of Christmas New Year's. The schedule is:

Dec. 26 and Jan. 2 – No pick up, Christmas and New Year's holidays

Dec. 27 and Jan. 3 – Cycler Manor, Main Post and dumpster at Building 621

Dec. 28 and Jan. 4 – Ellis Heights, O'Donnell Heights, Montieth Heights, Peterson Heights north of Thomas Avenue, Marshall Field (No change from regular schedule and dumpsters at Building 5309.

Dec. 29 and Jan. 5 – Warner Heights, Burnside Heights and dumpsters at Buildings 28, 45, 470, 540, 542, 621 (No change from regular schedule.)

Dec. 30 and Jan. 6 – Meade Heights, McClellan Heights, South Warner Heights, Peterson Heights south of Thomas Avenue and dumpsters at Building 5309. (No change from regular schedule.)

For more information, call Paul Cassella at 239-6274.

CID offers \$500 reward

The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command is offering a \$500 reward for information leading to the identification, apprehension and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the theft of tools and Motorola radios from a Mortenson construction site.

The tools and radios were stolen between Oct. 7 and 10 from a white connex located within the construction site adjacent to Building 7227 on Fort Riley.

Anyone with information concerning this incident should call Special Agent Matt Hodges at 239-3931 or the Fort Riley military police at 239-6767.



Post/Morlock
New homeowners, Spc. Shane Warren, his wife, Cathryn, and their son, Ethan, cut the ribbon at the opening of the new USDA Rural Development Housing Office on Fort Riley Dec. 13.

Buyers

continued from page 1

USDA's Rural Development Agency for housing. In addition, according to a press release from U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts' (R-Kan.) office, an extra \$25 million from the USDA's Rural Housing Agency will be dedicated solely to helping military and civilian families coming to Fort Riley purchase homes.

Over the next year and a half, the population at Fort Riley will go from about 12,000 to 25,000 family members and add 3,000 to 4,000 civilian workers said Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commanding general of Fort Riley and the 24th Infantry Division (Mech).

U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran (R-Kan.) spoke at the ribbon cutting, calling the arrival of new troops to Fort Riley the "best piece of economic news that has happened in our state in decades, if not generations."

Where to go:

The new USDA office is located on the second floor of Carr Hall, 45 Barry Ave. Those interested in finding out more about home financing options available through the USDA should stop by the office or call (785) 239-6473.

"It's a wonderful Christmas present to the state of Kansas, and to people who live here and to our citizens," Moran said. "Most of the communities would love to be in the position that the communities that surround Fort Riley are in today as a result of the Christmas present of these Soldiers and their families arriving."



EASTSIDE MARKET-MANHATTAN
2 x 8'
Black Only
2x8 Eastside Mt.

Returning reservists may train others going

Army News Service

FORT GILLEM, Ga. (Army News Service, Dec. 9, 2005) – Some National Guard and Army Reserve leaders coming home from Iraq and Afghanistan may be asked to stay on active duty to help train future rotations.

A new First U.S. Army program, dubbed "Operation Warrior Trainer," seeks to take advantage of the recent combat experiences of junior leaders to help train the next rotations headed to the theater of operations, according to Lt. Gen. Russel L. Honoré, First U.S. Army commanding general.

The program focuses on senior lieutenants, captains, majors and senior non-commissioned officers who volunteer to be placed in critical assignments in training support brigades and battalions throughout First U.S. Army's area of responsibility.

Want more info?

For detailed information on Operation Warrior Trainer, contact Master Sgt. Mark McCollett at mark.mccollett@first.army.mil or Lt. Col. Jaci Bagby at bagbyj@first.army.mil or (404) 469-7453.

These Soldiers will operate as observer controllers and trainers who will share, mentor, coach and teach their fellow Soldiers tactics, techniques and procedures that they used during their recent combat tours.

Soldiers who meet the requirements for the program and wish to volunteer will not out-process or

be released from active duty while at their demobilization station, according to First Army officials.

Instead, they will be placed on leave until their packets have been approved. Once their packets have been approved, these Soldiers will be trained and certified as observer controllers and trainers and assigned for 18 to 24 months to a First Army training support brigade or battalion.

"I am excited about the Operation Warrior Trainer program," Honoré said in a memo to reserve component commanders.

"It represents a great opportunity for our young combat veterans to share their unique experiences with our mobilized Soldiers as we continue to prepare reserve component Soldiers to go down range," he added.

Information provided by First U.S. Army Public Affairs.

Housing rules to change

By Donna Miles

AFPS

WASHINGTON – About 30,000 single servicemembers who live off base and pay child support are likely to see a slight change in their military pay - an increase for some and cut for others - beginning in January.

The rules regarding the basic allowance for housing differential - an allotment for single members who pay child support - will change Dec. 31, Tim Fowlkes, the Pentagon's assistant director of

military compensation, told the American Forces Press Service.

The change is one of the last parts of a seven-year phase-in of the basic allowance for housing that began in 1998, he explained. The BAH system replaced the old variable housing allowance system.

Under the old law and the transition policies that have been in effect to implement BAH, single members who pay child support get a BAH differential. After Dec. 31, however, only members who live in government quarters and pay child support will continue to

receive the BAH differential, Fowlkes said.

Members who live off base and pay child support will receive BAH at the "with dependents" rate. Previously, they received BAH at the "without dependents" rate, plus the BAH differential.

This "with dependents" BAH rate varies widely based on pay grade and location, Fowlkes said, so some affected servicemembers will notice a slight increase in their pay and some, a slight decrease. Those living in low-cost housing markets are the most likely to notice a dip, he said.

VLASSIS - AFC
3 x 12"
Black Only
Red 642393 call one 7824



Post, Army news briefly

Residents may keep lights on

Many post residents choose to decorate the outside of their quarters for Christmas. Normally, Christmas lights should be down by the middle of January, but those families who wish to leave their lights up for their Soldier's return from deployment are allowed to do so this year.

Tax statements to be mailed

Retired and annuitant account statements and 1099-R tax statements will be mailed throughout the latter half of December. Defense Finance and Accounting Service officials have announced. DFAS officials remind pay recipients that the account statement and tax form will be mailed in the same envelope.

For retirees, the RAS will reflect changes due to the cost-of-living increase, the Veterans Administration Legislative increase and changes to the Federal Income Tax Withholding rates.

Because of the VA legislative increase, recipients of Combat Related Special Compensation also will receive an increase to their CRSC amount. This amount will affect the December 2005 entitlement scheduled for the payment on Jan. 3.

Retirees who do not have a myPay account will not receive a CRSC pay statement.

Injured vets get more assistance

The Department of Defense has opened the Military Severely Injured Joint Support Operations Center, a 24/7 service to help severely injured servicemembers find jobs and answer questions they and their families might have.

The MSUSO Center offers help through a toll-free number, (888) 774-1361.

The DoD also has partnered with Military.com to provide an online Career Center designed to connect severely injured servicemembers with benefits, resources and employment opportunities to help ease their transition.

The Career Center can be found at <http://www.military.com/support> on the Web.

CID offers \$500 reward

The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command is offering a \$500 reward for information leading to the identification, apprehension and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the theft of government property.

Between Oct. 1 and 7, a person or persons broke into a storage locker in the Bulk Storage Area, Room 315, Building 7002B, on Fort Riley and stole the Central Issue Facility equipment.

Anyone with information concerning this incident should call Special Agent Jeffrey W. Lasley at 239-8641 or the Fort Riley military police at 239-6767.

Tax program needs workers

The 2006 Fort Riley Tax Assistance Program needs individuals willing to volunteer to help Soldiers and military families file tax returns. No experience is necessary, but individuals with previous tax experiences are encouraged to volunteer to help part-time at the Fort Riley Tax Center.

Volunteer tax preparation clerks receive the same training as paid preparers, learn tax preparation skills and have the opportunity to help members of the Army community.

Anyone interested in volunteering should call Capt. Christopher Callicott at 239-3117.

Ranger moves to new home

Post's mounted color guard donates horse to Tall Oaks

By Pfc. Anna Perry
19th PAD

Members of the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard introduced one of the unit's mounts to his new family Dec. 14 at the CGMCG's stable on post.

"Ranger's been with the unit for quite some time, but he doesn't meet our needs because he's a little heavier and slower than our other horses," said Ron Roller, equestrian instructor for the CGMCG.

The over-1,300-pound Mustang is the third horse the CGMCG has donated to the Tall Oaks Conference Center in Linwood, Kans.

"We want these horses to have a good home where they can live their lives at a better pace," Roller said.

The Tall Oaks Conference Center is a ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Greater Kansas City. The facility hosts a camping and equestrian program for its churches and other civic and secular organizations.

Representatives from Tall Oaks visited Fort Riley Dec. 14 to inspect Ranger and assess his ability to interact with people.

"When we heard that we had the opportunity to acquire another horse from Fort Riley, we were

right on that because the two horses we got from them before have worked so well in our program," said Barbara Deaver, director of equestrian programs at Tall Oaks.

"We have a huge variety of people that come to see our horses, but the majority of them come from the city, where they don't have access to horses," Deaver said.

"They may dream about them and see them on TV, but when they actually see the horse up close and personal, they are terrified," she said.

After interacting with Ranger for a few minutes, Deaver realized that he would be very beneficial in helping new equestrians experience a smooth ride.

"He'll probably be the horse that is used for inexperienced riders because he will be very gentle and patient with them. I can see that in his face," Deaver said.

Although the CGMCG troopers had to say goodbye to a friend, they feel confident he will be happy with his new caretakers.

"Ranger and the other horses have served proudly," said Chief Warrant Officer Kevin Stonehouse, CGMCG commander.

"It's a wonderful feeling ... not only to have worked with these horses, but to know they are going to continue to be ridden and taken care of."



Post/Perry

Barbara Deaver gets to know Ranger before taking him to his new home Dec. 14. The horse was donated to the Tall Oaks Conference Center by the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard.

DoD offers all enlisted Soldiers same opportunity for professional education

By Sean P. Houlihan
AFPS

WASHINGTON — The enlisted force will have the same opportunity as the officer corps to receive joint professional military education throughout their careers.

"Senior leadership across the (Defense) Department and the services know the backbone of the

military is the enlisted corps, and they must be properly educated in the joint environment for the nation to be successful," said Army Command Sgt. Major William Joseph Gaaney, senior enlisted advisor to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in a Pentagon interview Dec. 6.

"Senior leaders rely on the senior enlisted leadership to take

care of enlisted servicemembers," he said. "Enlisted joint PME is a priority for all leaders that needs to be done now, because waiting isn't an option."

Gaaney said joint enlisted training was one of his top priorities when he began serving in his new position Oct. 1, and it is directly tied to Joint Chiefs Chairman Marine Gen. Peter Pace's second-

priority transformation of the force and the priorities of the combatant commands' and the services' senior enlisted advisors.

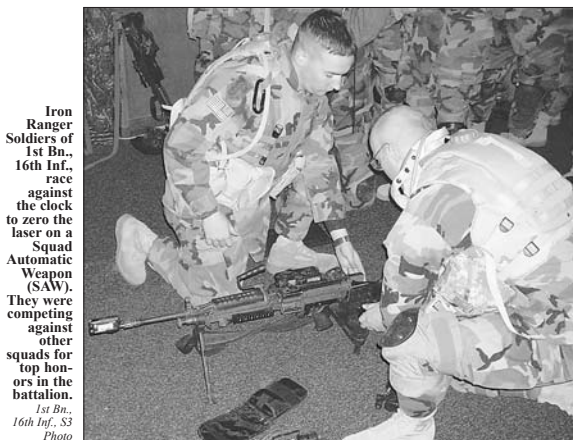
The policy calls for the services to incorporate joint topics into their existing enlisted PME programs and establishes two chairman-sponsored EJPME programs for enlisted servicemembers assigned or slated to be assigned to joint billets.

"While not mandated by law, as is the case for officers, this policy is a recognition that operating in joint, interagency, multinational and coalition warfighting organizations and staffs requires that joint learning objectives must be made available to all enlisted personnel," said Army Col. Lawrence Smith, chief, Joint Education Branch, J-7 Operational Plans and Joint Force Development, Joint Staff.

Smith said the Joint Staff, services and combatant commands have been working on this policy for more than two years to ensure the policy put into place will help the armed forces continually transform to meet the uncertain future and the unfolding challenges of the 21st century.

He explained that the goal of the policy is to expand future senior enlisted personnel's knowledge of individual, service and joint core competencies while broadening their understanding of the uncertain strategic and operational requirements.

"Senior enlisted leaders of the future must be well versed in both the art and science of joint operations," he said, noting that a "joint" context will be embedded into existing PME courses for all the services.



Iron Ranger
Soldiers of
1st Bn,
16th Inf.,
race
against the
clock
to zero the
laser on a
Squad
Automatic
Weapon
(SAW).
They were
competing
against
other
squads for
top hon-
ors in the
battalion.

1st Bn,
16th Inf., S3
Photo

Squads continued from page 1

five squads in five of the nine evaluation stations in the Sgt. Robinson Squad Competition to earn top spot and a day off.

Staff Sgt. Mario Garcia led the winning squad consisting of Sgt. Carlos Hernandez, Sgt. Jeremy Verhulst, Spc. Rogelio Martinez Alonso, Spc. Alan Thomas, Spc. Doyle Grubaugh and Spc. Logan Wilkerson.

Co. C's 1st and 2nd Squads of the 2nd Pltn. Placed second and third, respectively.



An Iron Ranger
inserts a Robertazzi
Nasopharyngeal
Airway, ensuring
that the casualty
can breathe.
1st Bn., 16th Inf., S3
Photo

CANDLEWOOD HEALTH MART PHARMAC
2 x 2
Black Only
2x2 Candlewood Health Dec TF ml

4X4 LAND, INC.
3 x 2
Black Only
3x2 4x4Land Dec TF

PRAIRIE HAWK CYCLE &
LEATHER,
1 x 1.5"
Black Only
1x1.5 Prairie Hawk DecTF

COTTONWOOD THEATERS
1 x 3"
Black Only
1X3 COTTONWOOD DEC.

TYME OUT
1 x 3"
Black Only
1x3 Great stables, great sports

WILLHOITES
1 x 5"
Black Only
1X5 Willhoites 12/15 Toy Ad

COLLEGE HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH
2 x 2"
Black Only
2X2 College Hgts Dec TF ml



Units, families, students make march, donate toys



Post/Morelock
Students from Morris Hill Elementary School greet Santa at the entrance to the Operation Santa Claus headquarters Dec. 16 after marching from King Field House with toys.

Post/Morelock
Students from Morris Hill Elementary School walk with Santa and members of the 70th Eng. Bn. to Operation Santa Claus headquarters Dec. 16. They all carried toys to donate to the post's annual toy drive for needy children on post and in surrounding communities.

Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus, otherwise known as Lt. Col. Lee Merritt and Command Sgt. Maj. Ian Mann, lead 541st CSS Bn. Soldiers to Operation Santa Claus headquarters Dec. 16.
Post/Morelock



Soldiers from the 541st CSS Bn. carry toys to the Operation Santa Claus headquarters Dec. 16. They had marched all the way from their unit headquarters on Custer Hill early in the morning to donate toys to the annual drive for needy children.
Post/Morelock

STATE FARM INSURANCE
2 x 1"
Black Only
2x1 Ladora TF

INDEPENDENCE JEWELRY
2 x 3"
Black Only
2x3 Indep Jewelry Holiday

SETH CHILD CINEMAS
2 x 5.5"
Black Only
2x5.5 Seth Childs/Dec TF ml

THE MARTIN AGENCY
4 x 10"
Black Only
ALLTEL TBD





Commentary

Thursday, December 22, 2005

Fort Riley Post

Page 5

Riley Roundtable

This week's question:

What would you like to know about the new units, Soldiers and families coming to Fort Riley and what Fort Riley is doing about the impending growth?



Loren Callaham
Foreman for asphalt company
Home: White City, Kan.

"Got a lot of building going on right now I noticed. Overall I think they're doing pretty good. Seems like to me they're wanting to overcharge a lot of the people, I think. A lot of the house prices have jumped, but other than that I think it's good for the community overall."



Spc. Michael Ervin
Truck driver
648th Area Support Group
Home: Anchorage, Alaska

"If they're going to build new barracks and family housing. Of course, I'm not stationed here yet, but that's the question a lot of people ask."



"Basically where are they all supposed to go? Where are they supposed to be housed? Right now our unit's been moved three or four different times trying to accommodate everything going on as far as units coming in and units going."

Spc. Jeanne O'Neal
3rd Battalion (Logistic Support),
382nd Regiment
Home: Hillsboro, Ill.



"I just hope they have adequate housing available for them that doesn't cause an increase in rental property prices. Because all that does really is it causes resentment, I would think, in the local community and rental prices get forced up."

Roy Walker
Concessionaire
Home: Clarksville, Tenn.



"Are they going to make the chow halls open when they're supposed to be open so Soldiers can eat? Right now, we're med holds and our chow halls are closed. The one right by our building is closed and they have been closed since the 15th and aren't reopening until the fourth."

Spc. Eric West
Truck Driver, 648th ASG
Home: Wichita, Kan.

Next week's question:

What New Year's resolution do think leaders at Fort Riley should have made?

Opinions may be e-mailed to the editor at mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil or faxed to the editor at 239-2592. Opinions must reach the editor by close of business Tuesdays to appear in the following Friday's paper.

Christmas thought Night before Christmas ... every night

Editor's note: This poem is reprinted from the Manhattan Free Press of Dec. 8, 2005.

A Different Christmas Poem

The embers glowed softly, and in their dim light,
I gazed round the room and I cherished the sight.
My wife was asleep, her head on my chest,
My daughter beside me, angelic in rest.
Outside the snow fell, a blanket of white
Transforming the yard to a winter delight.
The sparkling lights in the tree, I believe,
Completed the magic that was Christmas Eve.

My eyelids were heavy, my breathing was deep,
Secure and surrounded by love, I would sleep
In perfect contentment, or so it would seem;
So I slumbered. Perhaps I started to dream.
The sound wasn't loud, and it wasn't too near;
But I opened my eyes when it tickled my ear.
Perhaps just a cough, I didn't

quite know;
Then the sure sound of foot-steps outside in the snow.

My soul gave a tremble; I struggled to hear;
And I crept to the door just to see who was near.
Standing out in the cold and the dark of the night,
A lone figure stood, his face weary and light.
A Soldier, I puzzled, some 20 years old,
Perhaps a Marine, huddled here in the cold.
Alone in the dark, he looked up and smiled,
Standing watch over me, and my wife, and my child.

"What are you doing?" I asked without fear.
"Come in this moment; it's freezing out here!"
"Put down your pack, brush the snow from your sleeve,
You should be at home on a cold Christmas Eve!"

For barely a moment I saw his eyes shift
Away from the cold and the snow blown in dust ...
To the window that danced with a warm fire's light,
Then he sighed and he said,
"It's really all right."
"I'm out here by choice. I'm

here every night.
"It's my duty to stand at the front of the line
"That separates you from the darkest of times.
"No one had to ask or beg or implore me,
"I'm proud to stand here like my fathers before me.

"My Gramps died at Pearl on a day in December."
Then he sighed, "That's a Christmas Gram always remembers."

"My Dad stood his watch in the jungles of Nam,
"And now it is my turn, and so here I am.

"I've not seen my own son in more than a while,
"But my wife sends me pictures. He's sure got her smile."

Then he bent and he carefully pulled from his bag ...

The red, white and blue ... an American flag.
"I can live through the cold and the being alone
"Away from my family, my house and my home.

"I can stand at my post through the rain and the sleet.
"I can sleep in a foxhole with little to eat.
"I can carry the weight of killing another,
"Or lay down my life with my

sister and brother.
"Who stand at the front against any and all,
"To ensure for all time that this flag will not fall.
"So go back inside," he said, "harbor no fright.
"Your family is waiting, and I'll be all right."
"But isn't there something I can do, at the least,
"Give you money?" I asked, "or prepare you a feast?
"It seems all too little for all that you've done,
"For being away from you wife and your son."

Then his eyes welled a tear that held no regret,
"Just tell us you love us and never forget
"To fight for our rights back at home while we're gone,
"To stand your own watch, no matter how long.
"For when we come home, either standing or dead,
"To know you remember we fought and we bled
"Is payment enough, and with that we will trust,
"That we mattered to you as you mattered to us."

— Author unknown

Command message

Joint Chiefs send best wishes

Throughout our history, the men and women of the Armed Forces have spent many holidays far from loved ones, serving to defend the ideals of freedom and liberty that Americans hold so dear.
Today, you continue to display that same uncompromising devotion to duty.

From full combat operations to critical relief missions, your efforts across the globe bring peace to troubled lands and hope to those in need.

Although it is never easy to be away from home, especially during the holidays,

your sacrifices come during a vital time in our nation's history. You may be justifiably proud of your steadfast service in promoting freedom and defending our way of life.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff join me, and the rest of

America, in sending you and your families our very warmest wishes for a safe and happy holiday season.

Gen. Peter Pace
U.S. Marine Corps
Chairman,
Joint Chiefs of Staff

Letter to editor

Soldier's mother writes of support

I am James Kesinger's mother. He enlisted at Pharr, Texas, but was born in Corpus Christi and raised in Zapata, Texas. He lived with his parents in Orange Grove, Texas, till he remarried and enlisted in Army.

He was a reservist with the 887th Quartermaster out of the Sinton, Texas, and deployed to Iraq from 2003 Jan. 2 to Feb. 19, 2004. I have his Warrior Citizen flag and coins and unit stuff with

us. We are active in the Family Readiness Support Group. My husband and I are proud of James and what he has done for our country. I am proud of those who are still with us and those who are not. We stand proud to support our forces.

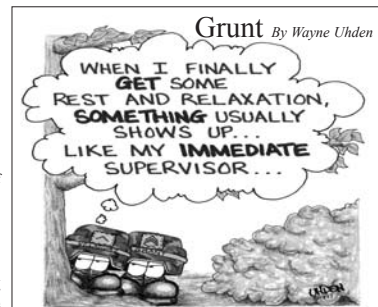
Deanna and Clifford Kesinger
Orange Grove, Texas

We want your letters

The Post welcomes letters to the editor. Lengthy letters may have to be edited to fit space but will not be edited to change the opinions expressed by the writer.

All letters must include the writer's full name, home address and a phone number where the editor can reach them to clarify points or to discuss letter content.

Send letters to Editor, The Post, Public Affairs Office, 405 Pershing, Fort Riley, KS 66442 or by e-mail to mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil.



FORT RILEY POST

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How does the Post rate?

	Poor	Fair	Good
Interesting articles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Valuable information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mix of unit, community news	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Photo coverage of events	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Entertainment coverage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Your opinion is important to the Post editor and staff. Please take a moment to tell us how well we are doing our job of keeping you informed about what is happening at Fort Riley. Fax the form to (785) 239-2592 or clip and mail this form to Editor, Public Affairs Office, Building 405, Fort Riley, KS 66442, or drop the form at building 405. You may also send your opinions to the staff by e-mail at mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil.

What are your concerns or suggestions for improvement?

Your name (optional) and phone number (if you would like to talk about your ideas): _____



Scholarships help fallen Gl's families

About the fund

The Children of Fallen Soldiers Relief Fund is a non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization founded in October 2003 as a means of providing college grants and financial assistance to surviving children and spouses of U.S. military servicemembers who have lost their lives in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

By Gerry J. Gilmore
AFPS

WASHINGTON — Becky Campbell's son, David, is in the Army's 82nd Airborne Division.

After her son returned home safe after a tour of duty in Iraq in 2003, Campbell said she decided to help military families who'd suffered the loss of a loved one.

"I wanted to do something," Campbell said.

So Campbell founded the non-profit Children of Fallen Soldiers

Relief Fund in October 2003. She said the all-volunteer, nationwide group provides scholarship money to surviving spouses and children of military families from all branches of the armed forces.

"We're a grassroots organization not affiliated with anybody in the government. (We're) just a lot of people wanting to help the families," said Campbell, a resident of Gaithersburg, Md.

Thus far, the group has helped six families of deceased servicemembers, distributing more than

\$26,000 in scholarship funds, Campbell said.

She said her group receives donations from public and private sources from across the United States. She said her group also co-sponsors fundraisers for service-members' families.

Campbell said her organization plans to provide more college grants in January, bringing the

total of distributed funds to more than \$36,000.

People can provide donations through the organization's Web site, www.childrenoffallensoldiersrelief.org, or through the mail via an address listed on the site, Campbell said. Churches, schools and businesses also donate to the cause, she said.

"We have a lot of support from

the public," Campbell said, noting Americans are eager and proud to show support for U.S. servicemembers deployed in Afghanistan and Iraq.

At first, Campbell just wanted to provide college money for one or two children of military families in need. "And then," she said, "I just decided that I wasn't going to stop."

Activities set holiday hours

In observance of the Holidays the following Hours of Operation will be effective for each facility:

Arts & Crafts Center — Closed Dec. 23; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 24; closed Dec. 25-26 and 30; 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Dec. 31; closed Jan. 1-2

Automotive Skills Center — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 23; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 24; closed Dec. 25-26; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 30 and 31; closed Jan. 1-2

Custer Hill Lanes Bowling Center — 5 p.m. to close Dec. 23; closed Dec. 24-26; 5 p.m. to close Dec. 30; private party — New Year's Bowling Bash Dec. 31; closed Jan. 1-2

Bowling Snack Bar — 5 p.m. to close Dec. 23; closed Dec. 24-26; 5 p.m. to close Dec. 30; private party Dec. 31; closed Jan. 1-2

King Field House — 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 23-24; noon to 5 p.m.

Dec. 25; 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 26, 30 and 31; noon to 5 p.m. Jan. 1; 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jan. 2

Leonard Fitness Center — 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 23-24; closed Dec. 25; 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 26, 30 and 31; closed Jan. 1; 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jan. 2

Craig Fitness Center — 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 23-24; closed Dec. 25; 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 26, 30 and 31; closed Jan. 1; 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jan. 2

Long Fitness Center — 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 23-24; noon to 5 p.m. Dec. 25; 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 26, 31 and 31; noon to 5 p.m. Jan. 1; 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jan. 2

Custer Hill Golf Course — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 23-24; closed Dec. 25-26; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 30 and 31; closed Jan. 1-2

Library — 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Dec. 23-24; closed Dec. 25-26; 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Dec. 30-31; closed Jan. 1-2

Outdoor Recreation Center —

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 23, closed Dec. 24-26; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 30; closed Dec. 31-Jan. 2

Rally Point — 5 p.m. to close Dec. 23; 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Dec. 24; closed Dec. 25-26; 5 p.m. to close Dec. 30; 8 p.m. Dec. 31 to 4 a.m. Jan. 1 for New Year's Eve Bash; 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Jan. 1; closed Jan. 2

Primo's — 5 to 9 p.m. Dec. 23; 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Dec. 24; closed Dec. 25-26; 5 p.m. to close Dec. 30; closed Dec. 31; 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Jan. 1; closed Jan. 2

Riley Wheels Skating Rink — 8 to 10 p.m. Dec. 23; closed Dec. 24-26; 8 to 10 p.m. Dec. 30; closed Dec. 31-Jan. 2

ITR — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 23; closed Dec. 24-26; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 30; closed Dec. 31-Jan. 2

Eyster Pool — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 23-24; closed Dec. 25-26; 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 30-31; closed Jan. 1-2



Photo by Capt. Kollin Taylor

Sledder goes airborne

Unlike Orville and Wilbur Wright, this young man discovered how to fly without wings after snow blanketed the region Dec. 17.

DAILY UNION
6 x 12.5"
Black Only
AUSA



More toys for Santa



Howlette Kleiner (right), vice president of Credit Union One on Fort Riley, and Buz Bruzina, member services officer, deliver toys to Operation Santa Claus Dec. 12. Credit Union One has participated in Operation Santa Claus since 1988. "We want to help kids in the community. We don't want anybody to go without during the holiday season," Kleiner said. Post/Perry

FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD-MANHATTA
2 x 4"
Black Only
2x4 1st Assem/God Dec TF

OFFICE ONE, INC.
2 x 5"
Black Only
2x5 Christmas Special

STANDARD PLUMBING
2 x 5"
Black Only
2X5 Stand Plumb Dec TF

KSU faculty members receive grants

Studies will focus on projects relating to military child care

By Jennifer Newberry
Kansas State University

MANHATTAN, Kan. – Several faculty members and a graduate student in the School of Family Studies and Human Services at Kansas State University have received grants for various projects relating to the care of military children.

Bill Meredith, head of the

School of Family Studies and

Human Services, said with the

increase in the number of Soldiers

coming to Fort Riley, more child

care and related programs will be

needed on post and in the sur-

rounding communities.

The grants will fund projects

that will help find child care

providers, deal with the stress of

having a deployed parent and

establish 4-H Clubs on Army

bases and Air Force installations.

A project called "Army Spon-

sored Quality Child Care Project"

will find child care providers to

care for children of Fort Riley

military personnel.

Given Bailey, project director in family studies and human services, and Patty Peschel, graduate student in special education and an early care and education specialist at the Flint Hills Resource and Referral Agency, received a \$482,975 grant from the National Association of Child Care, Resource and Referral Agencies.

Bailey also serves as coordinator of the Flint Hills Resource and Referral Agency.

The Flint Hills Resource and Referral Agency is responsible for completion of the grant. With the expected influx in the number of military coming to Fort Riley, Bailey said not all would be able to find housing in Geary and Riley counties and might live in other nearby communities where they can find housing. The goal of the project is to set up child care wherever these families set up residence, she said.

The Flint Hills Resource and Referral Agency will work to

recruit child care centers and family child care providers in local areas. The agency will train them in child abuse prevention, fire, health and safety procedures and in Army quality standards.

A project called "Operation Military Kids" involves designing a statewide effort to deal with stress when parents are unexpectedly deployed to help in the war effort. Elaine Johannes, extension specialist for family studies and human services, and Diane Mack, extension specialist of 4-H youth development, received a two-year grant from the Department of the Army. It's worth \$50,000 for each year. The project will focus on Army Reserve and National Guard families across Kansas.

"Families left behind are ill-equipped to deal with changes – financial and social – and the new demands on the youth themselves and how they should fit in with a community that may not know their family situation," Johannes said. "These families aren't in

large urban areas or on a military installation. They're scattered across the state."

While Operation Military Kids has been under way for a couple of years nationally, Kansas was invited to apply because of the state's high number of Army Reserve and National Guard members.

Marlene Glascock, research assistant professor of family studies and human services, received three grants from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to set up 4-H clubs on Army and Air Force installations. The first grant, a "4-H Army Youth Development Project," is for \$1,016,161.

The project is a partnership between the USDA and Army Child and Youth Services. While several universities are involved, Glascock and K-State will deal with its staff development aspects. A current aspect involves adapting 4-H baby-sitting and home-alone curriculum for Army use.

MWR
4 x 5"
Black Only
MWR Rally Pt. 12/18 & 23

ED SCHRAM DODGE
4 x 10"
Black Only
4X10 Ed Schram





Fort Riley Middle School names honor students

Special to the Post

Fort Riley Middle School officials recently announced students making the second six weeks honor roll. The grading period ended Nov. 4.

Students making the Principal's Honor Roll had to have a 3.5 grade point average and no C's on their report cards.

Students making the Trooper Honor Roll had to have a 3.0 to 3.49 GPA and could have one C on their report card.

Principal's Honor Roll

Sixth Grade
Jocelyn C Aguilar
Shamiece A Banks
Kendra Baskin
Maggi M Birchmeier

Clarissa K Boboy
Jonathan A Boyd
Davis J Broadwater
Hannah N Bullard
Brandika C Cadenhead

Courtney B Clyde
Devin R Davis
Abigail M Ebersole
Jacob B Elliott
Jensine V Ernacio
Nicole A Farver
Johnathan Filiatrault
Celine A Fowler
Michelle A Freeman
Iesha Fujowara
Medina M Gregory
Kayla R Haack
Oscar J Hall
Rowan L Harris
Gregory M Haug
Antonio W Hill
Mason W Holbert
Damaris R Jimenez

Aisha-Shamika Lockhart

Kemony K Louis
Rose J Lucero
Caroline L Michael
Lauren G Moss
Taylor C Nagle
Christian R Nott
Kretchen M Olmeda

Evergreen A Osa
Blake A Parker
Ashley Peebles
Yaylor M Pittard
Taylor S Poppo
Hunter A Postier
Dylen L Raastad
Josiah I Robinson

Hanna Y Sul
Dewayne Lee Sanford

Nathaniel G Sankey
Alexander M Schwartz

Katherine R Seigel
Jose Sierra III
Brendon Steward
Isaac A Taylor
Coltyn R Vazquez
Carina P Waite

Zachary R Walborn
Alexander Weaver
Michelle Y Westerman

Elizabeth C Yoast
Nicholas B Young

Seventh Grade
Annelyse R Apodaca
John E Balch
Shabazz J Brumfield
Felicia A Cates
Justin W Cerna
Rebecca A Dirks
Elizabeth J Grammel
Mckenzie D Hardy
Anthony J Harper
Brendan J Higginbottom
Wesley A Hill
Staci Holubek
Zachary K Hopkins
Connor P Howard
Zachary I Jones
McKenna R Kelly

Hillary E Konken
Leah B Kundel

Natalie A Kundel
Joseph S Lannon
Cindy Malone
Amanda K McElroy
Orel Moran
Kiara Ocasio
Ian R Palmer

Austin Lee Parton
Brooke A Powers
Dominika Pullmann
Kellie V Richards
Ashley Rogers-Floro
Valerie R Serna
Hanna Y Sul

Samantha J van Riper

Samantha L Veasy
Mikala R Walter
Kenaura L Warren

Eighth Grade
Miguel A Adame
Danielle Adams
Lauren A Apodaca
Tyler M Barnes
Justin J Baublitz
Daris J Benton

Taylor S Berry
Alexander M Bertucci

Zachary T Birchmeier

Alonzo J Cordova
Samantha R Courts
Bria I Dansby

Jade A Dwelley
Michaela L Dycus
Joshua D Eckel
Casey L Elliott
Charles T Foote
Gabriella G Gadson
Jeffrey R Graham
Shannon M Grammel
Kylee E Gray
Tara Haag
Jazmene M Hartage
Dana J Haywood
Megan Hertel
Brittany Hitchcock
Amanda C Hollis
Morgan C Holmes

Taylor Johnson
Taylor Jones

Christian D Kubik
Leanna Ludington
Kallia D Mann
Natalya McCarroll
Matthew Miller
Rachel Nelson
Karla Pagan

Alexa Pappal
Esteban Perez Jr
Falesu Pohahau
Samuel Quintas
Shaniece Ruiz
Jasmine Smiley
Johnisha Smith
Janice Soledispa

Kayla Soper
Jonathan Spurlock
Brent Stroh
Jeremiah A Taylor

Cassandra Townsend
Christina Valentin
Brandi Washington
Christina Westerman
Michael Wilkerson
Jacob C Wright

Trooper Honor Roll

Sixth Grade
Troy J Adams
Alexa E Armsden
Amy M Belcher
Brittany Borders
Angel Burnside
Christian B Cole
Darius T Dawsey
Ashley R Delio
Heather R Delio
Eric Dixon
Kyle E Dyson
Mark B Emmer
Christian D Forbes
Alyssa Grover
Austin Hansen
Gabriel A Hanson
Weslie L Hatfield
Adonis L Herron
Kadesia J Johnson
Jordan L Lahip-Ramelb
Matthew S Lee
Latricia R Lytch

Zachary L Marris
Terrance J Miller
Alyssa Sue Moening
Domineeq M Mont-roe

Derrick M Montgomery
Mackenzie A Moser
Jermaine L Phillips
Tevin D Raines
Rafael Rodriguez
Johathan A Rowe
Nicole M Santiago
Destiny Shakespear
Jayna Rey Smith
Derrick M Swanson
Brooklyn M Taylor
Paul J Theriault
Christopher Valadolid

Aleya S Williams

Seventh Grade
Naya Arredondo
Erik Conrad Baker
Megan R Black
Emmanuel D Cockrell

Allyssa B Crowell
Erica M Davis
Mary C Dearing
Moises D Denis
Mitchell A Emerson

Derrian J Fogg
Tevin A Geike
Leach k Griggs
Amanda M Hernandez

Brandon A Hobbie
Natalie G Kelley
Brittany L Lavalleur
Melissa L Leturgez
Luis R Marengo
Kasha I McDougald
Ariel L McGueen
Tonya Nicole Mills
Courtney N Paige
Shawn P Persaud
Andrew W Reinhardt

Laura E Seigel
Daniel J Skelton
Andrea R Smith
Dylan J Soper
Kaitlyn C Stroman
Ashley E Thomas
Frankie Zachar VII

Eighth Grade
Jacolby P Adams
Meshawn L Armstrong
Katherine L Balsamo
Marcxavious N Bass
Brooke A Beasley

Romel A Boyce
Jasan R Bronson-Elzinga

Mikela R Brown
Kara F Castro
Andrew T Coleman
James E Davison
Steven J Delto
Jacklyne S Dirks
Malik T Giles
Trevor A Hardy
Timbrelle Hendricks
Jeremy Herman
Samantha Hernandez

Darius Herron
Paige Jonas
Brittini Knapp
Sydney Krueger
Victor Link
Eric McDowell
Keith Meiners
Thomas Miakievish
Alicia Monteith
Keyamma : Rawls
Matthew Righter
Stephanie Rivera
Cheyenne Schlaack
Gunner Schritenthal
Troy Susce
Andrew Winger
Allyson N Woolard

HOMESTEAD AUTO
1 x 1.5"
Black Only
1X1.5 Homestead auto

MYERS INSURANCE AGENCY
1 x 2"
Black Only
1x2 Myers DecTF

BODY FIRST
1 x 2"
Black Only
1X2 Body First 12/4

GEARY COMMUNITY HOSPITAL
3 x 15"
Black Only
3X15 DOC'S DIRECTORY

CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS- THAYER
3 x 10.5"
Black Only
3X10.5 Charter Story 12/2



QBR'S FURNITURE CITY
6 x 21.25"
Black Only
Red 6X21.5 Otrs





HOME LUMBER
6 x 21.25"

Full Color 6X21.5 Home Lumber





Cyan Magenta Yellow Black



A variety of events and activities kept the Fort Riley community and its families busy.

Fort Riley Post

Company and battalion teams competed on athletic fields and courts for post titles

A Post Special Edition: 2005 – The Year in Review

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Thursday, December 22, 2005

America's Warfighting Center

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Sgt. 1st Class Linwood Morris (left), HHC, 70th Eng. Bn., receives instruction from Barton County Community College's Gabriela Donley (center) as he sticks Cpl. Shane Bruce of Co. C., 70th Eng. Bn., with a needle for an IV. The Soldiers of 3rd BCT were learning combat lifesaving techniques in preparation for their deployment to Iraq. *Post/Blackmon*



Capt. Scott Wence (left) and Capt. Michael Squires go through part of an obstacle course at the start of the Best Ranger Competition held April 22 at Fort Benning, Ga. They placed fifth among 23 teams competing. *Post/Blackmon*

Pfc. Michael Mead of Co. B, 1st Bn., 16th Inf., tosses a grenade into a mock bunker April 11 while practicing for the Expert Infantryman Badge test the following week.

Post/Blackmon



The Year:

Troop duty in Iraq continued to dominate news in the Post and local newspapers during 2005. The Devil Brigade of the Big Red One wrapped up its tour in Iraq and spent much of 2005 training to go again. The Bulldog Brigade of the 1st Armored Division spent most of the year in Iraq and the 82nd Medical Company (Air Ambulance) came home and went back eight months later.

Several other smaller organizations, including military police and CID units, deployed, too. Thousands of Army Reserves and National Guard Soldiers spent time at Fort Riley training for their own tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan.

While Soldiers trained to fight insurgents in southwest Asia, permanent staff at Fort Riley trained to fight other emergencies, such as a devastating tornado or a hazardous materials spill, that could affect workers and families on post. Then, Mother Nature sent several small tornadoes to America's Warfighting Center to put that training to the real test late in November.

The post began a rapid buildup of post facilities to accommodate new brigades announced for stationing at Fort Riley and for the return of the 1st Infantry Division's headquarters from Germany. The first brigade to begin forming -- the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team -- will be part of the Big Red One. Other brigades earmarked for Fort Riley include a combat aviation brigade and a sustainment brigade.



Spec. William Stewart, a combat medic with HHC, 1st Bn., 34th Armor, evaluates a mock casualty and administers first aid while observer/controller Sgt. 1st Class John Anderson looks on during the battalion's dismounted patrol training Feb. 23. *Post/Baker*



A 1st Bde. Soldier grabs a mock insurgent to take him to a detainment area May 19 as part of the brigade's attack lanes training during Operation Maverick. *Post/Blackmon*

You can find the Fort Riley Post online at www.riley.army.mil





2005 marked year of

*Post/Perrin*

Marty Gough of Gough Memorial Engraving adds names of 17 more Fort Riley Soldiers killed in Iraq to the Global War on Terrorism monument that stands near Cavalry Parade Field on post.

Lest we forget War deaths rise to 65

Fort Riley lost 20 more active duty Soldiers serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2005 as of Dec. 19. Their deaths brought the number of Fort Riley Soldiers lost in the global war on terrorism to 65.

About 3,700 Fort Riley Soldiers remained deployed to Iraq as of late December 2005.

Killed in 2005 were:

3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division:

1st Battalion, 41st Infantry
Cpl. William D. Richardson, Co. A, April 3, 2005

2nd Battalion, 70th Armor

Pfc. Wyatt D. Eisenhauer, HHC, May 19, 2005

Sgt. Kenneth Schall, Co. A, May 22, 2005

Spc. Peter J. Navarro, Co. A, Dec. 13, 2005

Staff Sgt. Michael S. Zyla, Co. A, Dec. 13, 2005

Sgt. Brian C. Karim, Co. A, Dec. 13, 2005

Spc. James E. Kesinger, HHC, Dec. 13, 2005

1st Battalion, 13th Armor

Pvt. Anthony Mazzarella, Co. B, July 5, 2005

Sgt. Dominic J. Sacco, Co. D, Nov. 20, 2005

Sgt. Donald J. Hasse, Co. A, Nov. 29, 2005

Sgt. Jerry W. Mills Jr., Co. A, Nov. 29, 2005

70th Engineer Battalion

Spc. Matthew A. Koch, Co. C, March 9, 2005

1st Sgt. Timmy J. Millsap, Co. A, April 25, 2005

Spc. Seferino Reyna, Co. A, Aug. 7, 2005

4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery

Spc. Colby M. Farnan, Btry. B, Feb. 25, 2005

Spc. Jason L. Moskie, Btry. B, Feb. 25, 2005

125th Forward Support Battalion

Spc. Jared Hartley, July 15, 2005

1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division:

1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery

Spc. David L. Rice, HHC, April 25, 2005

24th Transportation Company

Spc. Jeffrey S. Henthorn, Feb. 8, 2005

Sgt. Lorenzo Ponce Ruiz, Oct. 12, 2005

Sgt. Donald D. Furman, Oct. 12, 2005

Three members of the South African Army's military police spent a week in late January with members of the 924th Military Police Battalion at Fort Riley to get a better understanding of how the U.S. Army conducts military police operations.

During the week, they learned about garrison law enforcement procedures, tactical operations and operations at the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leavenworth.

The visit was part of a new military exchange program between the U.S. Army Military Police Corps and the Military Police Agency of the Republic of South Africa.

...

Fort Riley Criminal Investigation Command investigators determined in late January that an M-240, 5.56mm and three Browning .50-caliber machine guns discovered in the Milford Lake area the end of December were not serviceable and were not illegally missing from any Fort Riley unit arm rooms.

The investigation into why those weapons were not turned in and how they ended up in the Milford Lake area continued until June 14 when Sgt. William Johns of the 125th Forward Support Battalion was convicted for wrongful disposition of government property and dereliction of duty.

...

Nearly 890 Fort Riley Soldiers were affected when the Army overpaid \$3,000 Soldiers on their mid-month January paychecks. Army officials announced they would collect the funds from end-of-month paychecks to restore financial balance. Most of those affected received overpayments of \$200 to \$300. Overpayments for Fort Riley Soldiers ranged from \$7 to \$500.

...

The 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, at Fort Riley received the Valorous Unit Award Jan. 21, just before the brigade returned to Iraq. The Secretary of the Army bestows the award for heroism in action against an armed enemy of the United States.

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Operation of training facilities

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Fort Riley began shifting to an evolving organization early in 2005. The shift would transform the post's G3 – Directorate of Plans, Mobilization and Training – into a 24th Infantry Division (Mech) G3 staff and a Fort Riley Directorate of Plans, Mobilization, Training and Security controlled by the Northwest Region of the Army's Installation Management Agency.

...

The Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard represented the Army, Fort Riley and the state of Kansas in the 55th Presidential Inaugural Parade Jan. 20 in Washington, D.C. The group was one of 15 horse elements from across the country selected to be a part of this historic event.

...

Cleanup projects at Fort Riley earned the post the Secretary of the Army's top fiscal year 2004 award for environmental stewardship in the restoration category. Department of the Army announced the annual awards in January.

...

Fort Riley's savings as a result of the projects conducted during the previous two years amounted to about \$48.5 million.

...

Col. "Buck" Connor, assistant division commander for maneuver, 24th Infantry Division (Mech) at Fort Riley, received the Bronze Star with "V" device and the Legion of Merit at the post's Blue Chip Social Feb. 3.

Connor earned the medal with valor device for his work as 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, commander during the brigade's deployment to Iraq September 2003 through September 2004.

...

The 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment, completed its move from Camp Buehring, Kuwait, to Forward Operating Base Gabe in north-central Iraq Feb. 12. The battalion's contingent of more than 500 Soldiers and 200 vehicles made up the trail element of the 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, and completed the 400-mile journey without a vehicle accident or injury.

...

Fort Riley and 11 other military installations would share housing benefits provided in the initial

*Post/Heronemus*

Sara Elmer passes her daughter, Alexis, to Sgt. Joshua Elmer so grandma Jeanne Bridgewater (left) can take a photo of him holding the baby that was born while he was in Iraq. The family greeted Elmer at Fort Riley June 12 upon his return with other Soldiers of Task Force 1-41.

stage of the Army's \$250 million Barracks Improvement Program, according to a Feb. 17 announcement by officials from the Installation Management Agency.

The money would be used to improve conditions in permanent-party barracks at the 12 installations and improve living conditions at other posts for single Soldiers living in permanent-party barracks.

...

Three Soldiers achieved Table 8 gunnery perfection for 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, Company C's Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Black, vehicle commander, Spc. Jacques Collins, gunner and Spc. Michael Hunter, driver, successfully engaged all 10 targets to take home the battalion's top gun honors. The awards were won during qualifying for Bradley Fighting Vehicles Feb. 22.

...

More than 600 kitchens in the post's four-bedroom town homes got upgrades as part of a \$5.5 million renovation project. Kitchens

in 170 homes were completed by March 11 and officials expected the renovations to be completed by the end of 2006.

...

Temporary facilities in the Camp Funston area would be erected to accommodate Reserve Component Support Division Soldiers. The temporary structures would be used as barracks, dining facilities, administrative offices, classrooms and maintenance facilities.

...

During an April 28 ceremony at Fort Riley, 75 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, Soldiers and five from 1st Battalion, 34th Armor, received Expert Infantry Badges.

...

It was announced May 6 that Fort Riley would receive a new wastewater treatment plant to improve sewage treatment on post. The new plant would replace three existing wastewater treatment plants and were expected to be completed within six months.

Continued on next page

CHANGING TIMES BOUTIQUE

2 x 2"
Black Only
2x2 CTB DecTF

AFTER DARK VIDEO

2 x 2"
Black Only
2x2 Aft Dk Video TF

MILITARY OUTLET

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Black Only
2x3.5 Mil Outlet Dec TF

NOLLER DEALERSHIPS OF TOPEKA

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Black Only
2x3.5 Noller Creditline

MANHATTAN SHOE REPAIR

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Black Only
2x1.5 ManShoe List

THE APPLE'S HEART

2 x 2"
Black Only
2x2 Apple's Heart Dec TF

CENTRAL PLAINS BASEBALL LEAGUE

2 x 4"
Black Only
Name the team

SCREEN MACHINE

2 x 4"
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2x4 Screen Machine

REED & ELLIOTT JEWELERS

2 x 4"
Black Only
2x4 Reed & Elliott



change for Fort Riley

Fort Riley's provost marshal shifted 52 Department of the Army police officers to general post law enforcement May 7. The DA police officers joined members of the 977th MP Co. and activated members of Company A (MP Provisional), 1st Battalion, 190th Field Artillery, Montana Army National Guard, in patrolling post.

Rumors and educated guesses about Fort Riley's future turned to concrete recommendations for growth at America's Warfighting Center May 13.

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld's recommendations to the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission included an attack aviation battalion moving from Fort Campbell, Ky., a new sustainment brigade formed at Fort Riley, movement of part of the Civilian Personnel Operations Center from Rock Island Arsenal, activation of a new brigade combat team on post and return of the 1st Infantry Division headquarters and other division units from Germany and Korea.

Capt. Nicholas Ayers, commander of Company B, 1st Battalion, 34th Armor, was among 12 active duty officers and one active duty warrant officer named to receive the MacArthur Leadership Award May 25.

Battery C, 4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery, furlled and cased the battery's colors June 9 during a formal inactivation. Soldiers were reassigned to Fort Bliss, Texas, other Fort Riley units or placed on recruitment duty.

Sgt. Aaron Stanley was found guilty of two counts of premeditated murder June 10 and sentenced to life in prison without parole June 11 at his court martial after 8 1/2 days of deliberation. He was convicted in the Sept. 13,

2004, deaths of Staff Sgt. Matt Werner and Spc. Chris Hymer. Stanley was also found guilty of numerous drug charges and adultery.

Sgt. Eric Colvin was sentenced to 12 years of confinement for his use of methamphetamines, possession of marijuana with intent to distribute and wrongful distribution of methamphetamines.

Stanley and Colvin were Soldiers with the 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry. Initially Colvin was also charged with two counts of premeditated murder and conspiracy to commit murder in the deaths of Werner and Hymer.

U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts (R-Kan.) announced June 27 that \$25 million in guaranteed lending assistance would be available through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Housing Agency. That would be added to \$47 million previously appropriated for rural home and development loans.

Just shy of 30 years of service at Fort Riley, the 937th Engineer Group Headquarters and the 568th Engineer Company formally inactivated June 30. Sixty-five Soldiers of the 937th and 160 Soldiers of 568th were reassigned.

In a ceremony on the porch of the historic Custer House, Picerne Military Housing and Fort Riley entered into a partnership July 15 that promised replacement of about 1,500 housing units, renovation of more than 920 and 32 new homes on post. The company will assume management of family housing in July 2006.

On May 13, Army officials announced that they and Picerne officials would develop the Community Development and Management Plan for Fort Riley as part of the Army's Residential Communities Initiative. Under the RCI program, the Army plans to privatize family housing at 45 installations, more than 83,000

family housing units.

It was announced Nov. 4 that Picerne Military Housing has plans to build 400 new family homes on Fort Riley, saying it based its decision on information provided in a recent housing market analysis of the post and surrounding communities.

Post officials estimated about 9,000 new housing units will be needed to accommodate families of the new 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, three other brigades and the 1st Inf. Div. headquarters coming to Fort Riley.

A new company joined the 924th MP Battalion July 19. At full strength, the 116th Military Police Company would have about 170 Soldiers assigned.

It was announced July 29 that Spc. Jacob Mosher, Medical Department Activity, was named 2005 post Soldier of the Year and Mark Vallem, 331st Signal Company, was named NCO of the Year.

Construction began in September at the intersection of 1st Division Road and Williston Point Road for new family housing in Ellis Heights.

The nearly \$15 million project provides for 46 senior noncommissioned officer quarters in Ellis Heights and 16 company grade officer units in the south O'Donnell housing area.

A total of 30 duplexes and two single-story detached houses are planned for the area.

Construction also began on the first of 131 temporary relocatable buildings coming to Fort Riley. The buildings were needed to support new brigade being formed on post.

The first structures would house the support battalion and are located on Wells Street near the brigade's motor pool and vehicle maintenance facility.

Detachment G, 15th Finance Battalion, inactivated Oct. 14. The detachment's colors were cased at a ceremony. Members of the battalion were responsible for Soldier in- and out-processing, now handled by civilians.

Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 97th Military Police Battalion, uncased its colors and attached its 25-plus streamers during a reactivation ceremony Oct. 18. The same day, Soldiers cased the 924th MP Bn. (Prov.) and the 523rd MP Det. colors. The 924th became the 97th MP Bn.

Construction workers with Dondlinger and Sons of Wichita began work on tearing down the Henry Drive railroad bridge Oct. 28. The bridge, which closed Sept. 6, will be replaced.

The Henry Drive Bridge crossing the Republican River also will be replaced. Officials said the project was expected to take one year to complete.

The Main Post a la carte Dining Facility was named best in its category in the Northwest Region, Installation Management Agency, Nov. 18. The facility competed with other Northwest Region installations, including Fort Leavenworth, Kan., Fort Carson, Colo., Fort Lewis, Wash., and Fort McCoy, Wis.

All charges against 2nd Lt. Erick J. Anderson of the 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry, were dismissed. Anderson was charged Oct. 3 with two specifications of conspiracy to commit murder, two specifications of murder, dereliction of duty, making a false official statement and two specifications of conduct unbecoming an officer.

The incidences involved the alleged mercy killing of one Iraqi teenager and the fatal shooting of an Iraqi found in a home Anderson's patrol was searching.

New leaders assume posts

Not unusual for Fort Riley, several key leader positions lost and gained new people in 2005.

Col. Lee Staab took over as assistant division commander for support for the 24th Inf. Div. (Mech) from Brig. Gen. Frank Kearney, who became commander of Special Operations Command Central Command in Tampa, Fla.

Col. Dana Pittard assumed responsibilities as the assistant division commander for maneuver for the 24th Inf. Div. (Mech) late in July.

Pittard served as commander of the 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, which deployed in support of combat operations in Iraq in 2005.

Staab, a native of Hays, Kan., first served at Fort Riley as platoon leader and executive officer of Company B, 34th Engineer Battalion. He later returned as commander of the 70th Engineer Battalion.

In August, Col. Thomas Smith

replaced Col. John Simpson as Fort Riley's U.S. Army Garrison commander. Simpson went on to become G5 Strategic Planner for the Army at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Smith replaced Col. M. Curt Higdon July 14.

Command Sgt. Maj. Marvin Dean became the senior 24th Inf. Div. (Mech) enlisted Soldier Nov. 3.



Col. Dana Pittard



Col. Lee Staab



Col. Thomas Smith

Combat Studies Institute, Combined Arms Center.

After 33 years of service as deputy garrison commander, Helen Gough retired April 21. Linda Hoeffner took over the position, which is the top civilian administrator for installation activities.

In other changes of command:

Lt. Col. Chad LeMay took command of the 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, from Lt. Col. Mike Cabrey May 5.

Lt. Col. Frank Zachar succeeded Lt. Col. Thomas Hollis as company commander of the 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, June 8.

Lt. Col. Chris McCurry assumed command of the 101st Forward Support Battalion June 9. He succeeded Col. Jimmie Mister Jr.

Lt. Col. Peter Iversen assumed command of the 10th Air Support Operations Squadron from Lt. Col. Thomas Bednarek June 16.

Lt. Col. Howard Merritt took over the 541st Maintenance Battalion from Lt. Col. M. Curt Higdon July 14. Col. M. Curt Higdon July 14.

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Charity, involvement describe community

Fort Riley recognized the work and large contributions of several people involved with the 2004 Combined Federal Campaign at a Jan. 25 luncheon at Riley's Conference Center.

Not all individuals who contributed attended the event, but two of the 42 individuals who contributed more than \$500 were present to accept awards for their gifts.

Two individuals, Capt. Moses Scheinfeld of 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, and Marvin Bethel of the Southwest Civilian Personnel Operations Center, received special awards for donating more than \$1,000 each to the campaign.

Representatives from 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, and the Dental Activity accepted awards for "highest dollar amount given" by an organization. The 1st Brigade contributed \$38,936 to lead the large organization category and 16 employees at DEN-TAC gave \$4,999, the most of any small organization on post.

Three Junction City High School students took big steps leading toward personal goals following graduation.

Jr. ROTC Cadet Lt. Col. Shannon Cobb, the Blue Jay battalion's commander, and Cadet Capt. Denise Quigley, the battalion's S3, were accepted for appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

Cadet 1st Lt. Patrick Higginbottom, son of Lt. Col. Michael S. Higginbottom, commander of 1st Battalion, 34th Armor, at Fort Riley, was selected to attend the preparatory school for West Point.

A snowman, a grouch, a lion, a bear and a gorilla helped raise more than \$2,000 for single Soldiers at Fort Riley.

The costumed members of Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers volunteered to deliver Valentine sing-a-grams and gifts to more than 75 people on- and off-post Feb. 10 and 11.

The volunteers delivered the purchased messages and gifts mostly to offices on post, surprising everyone with their singing and dancing.

The annual sing-a-grams activity raises money for BOSS programs. All the proceeds go into the post's program and are used to offset the cost of activities for single Soldiers.

The Kansas City Chiefs Cheerleaders visited Fort Riley March 19. The cheerleaders performed a USO-type show and signed autographs to thank Soldiers for what they do for the country.



Post/Perrin

Older Clara (Emily Hogan) reacts to Rumpelstiltskin's (Amy Moore) demands during the performance of the favorite fairy tale, "Rumpelstiltskin," July 16 at the Fort Riley Teen Center.

John Trygg, president and chief executive officer of Konza Construction Company was honored as Volunteer of the Year May 12 by the Armed Services YMCA.

Maj. William Wong won in the 2004 Army Arts and Crafts Contest. Winners were announced in July. Wong won first place and \$300 in the novice woodworking category for a cradle he built.

Pat and Jane, two mules, joined the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard July 4. The guard uses the mule team during exhibitions at post and public functions.

Seventy cars entered the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers Car Show July 30 at Rally Point. Master Sgt. J.B. Thomas of the 6th Brigade, 25th Infantry Division (now 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division), won the domestic category with his 2002 Pontiac "Dream Cruiser" and claimed best in show honors. Sgt. Jarrod Norton of the 101st Forward Support Battalion won the truck/SUV category with his 2003 GMC Sierra.

Master Sgt. Herbie Teope of the Staff Judge Advocate's Office won a national writing award from the National Federation of Press Women Inc., it was

announced in the Sept. 1 issue of the Post. Teope won first in the collegiate sports writing category for a magazine or special supplement. His story was published in Rotowire Magazine.

Fort Riley celebrated Women's Equality Day and the 19th Amendment Aug. 26. The 19th Amendment gave women the right to vote. State Rep. Barbara Craft (R-65th District) attended the event as the guest speaker.

Sgt. Jacob Podgurski, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Engineer Battalion, drove 11 hours to Mississippi Sept. 1 to help his father, stepmother and two sisters who evacuated their home because of Hurricane Katrina. Soldiers in the battalion collected donations to help fund the trip.

Pfc. Chrissy Eaton, also of HHC, 1st Eng. Bn., and a native of Slidell, La., had not heard from family since the hurricane hit. She left Sept. 1 on a 15-hour journey to check on her grandmother in Mississippi.

Child and Youth Services officials on post announced in September they were in short supply of home family care providers. Some new providers had been trained, but CYS was seeking. Fort Riley regulations allow for

about 30 providers.

The bands Crossfade and Addictive Behavior drew 1,200 people to Marshall Army Airfield's Hangar 817 on Sept. 19. The concert was part of the 2005 Army Concert Tour hosted by Morale, Welfare and Recreation directorates. Addictive Behavior is a Manhattan band.

Spec. Nathan Haines and Spec. Nicholas Jacobson of the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard at Fort Riley drove the mule team of Reckless and Rampage around the arena at the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson. The skimmers and team took two first places and a second place in team competition Sept. 10.

Military spouse Krystal Rusch spearheaded a drive in September to collect toys, hygiene items and children's clothing from post residents to send to victims of Hurricane Katrina. Jefferson Elementary School served as the drop-off point for the drive.

Ware Elementary fourth-grade teacher Lisa Akard was named an American Star of Teaching by the U.S. Department of Education Sept. 7. Akard was one of 51 teachers across all grade levels in the United States, and the only teacher on a military base, to win the award.

Family and former Soldiers of the Third Armored Field Artillery Battalion gathered by Cavalry Parade Field Sept. 23 for the unveiling of a plaque dedicated to former Soldiers and a former commander, Maj. Gen. George Ruhlert. Thirty WWII veterans, their spouses and family members attended.

Members of the Historical and Archeological Society of Fort Riley and volunteers spent three days preparing apple pies for the society's annual fundraiser at Fort Riley's annual Open House and Apple Day celebration.

Staff Sgt. Taylor LeBlanc and his wife and five children took in members of their family Sept. 23-25. The relatives had evacuated their Houston homes when Hurricane Rita threatened. LeBlanc is a Soldier with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry. The couple opened their three-bedroom home in Abilene to 20 members of their family.

Fort Riley teens recommended extended curfews and additional public transportation after meeting at the 23rd Annual Youth Action Conference Oct. 1 at Fort Riley's Teen Center. The conference allowed middle school and high school students the opportunity to bring forward issues and concerns they feel teens are facing on Fort Riley.

Soldiers of the 648th Area Support Group joined forces with the Junction City community for Habitat for Humanity Oct. 1. The volunteers began work on a home for a single mother with three biological children and two adopted children.

Soldiers and family members decided Fort Riley needs a 24-hour dining facility and more public transportation services while meeting at the post's 2005 Army Family Action Plan Conference Oct. 12-13. The conference allowed Soldiers and family members to present issues and concerns they feel members of the Fort Riley community face and would like to have improved.

Fort Riley Middle School sixth-grade science teacher Deb Barnes was named a semi-finalist for Kansas Teacher of the Year for Region One Sept. 10.

The U.S. Department of Education announced at the end of September that Ware Elementary School was named a No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon School for 2005. The program recognizes schools that make significant progress in closing the achieve-

ment gap or whose students achieve at very high levels.

On Nov. 9, Ware Elementary School was awarded the 2005 Challenge Award by the Confidence in Kansas Public Education Task Force. Ninety-two Certificates of Merit were presented to 81 Kansas schools. Ware was also honored by the National Association of State Title I Directors Nov. 16 as one of the 52 Title I Distinguished Schools. The school was selected for outstanding results in Category 1 for exceptional student performance for two or more consecutive years.

A ribbon cutting on Oct. 13 officially opened the new Women's Center at Irwin Army Community Hospital. The new center includes eight birthing suites and a nursery.

It was announced Nov. 4 that Sgt. Nicholas S. Sendelbach, chemical operations specialist with Company B, 1st Eng. Bn., won first place with his short film, "Once Upon A Time in Iraq," in the 2004 All Army Photo Contest. When in Iraq from March 2003 to June 2004, Sendelbach took 4,000 still photos and compiled them to make his film.

More than 800 bowlers competed in the Special Olympics bowling championships Nov. 12 at Fort Riley.

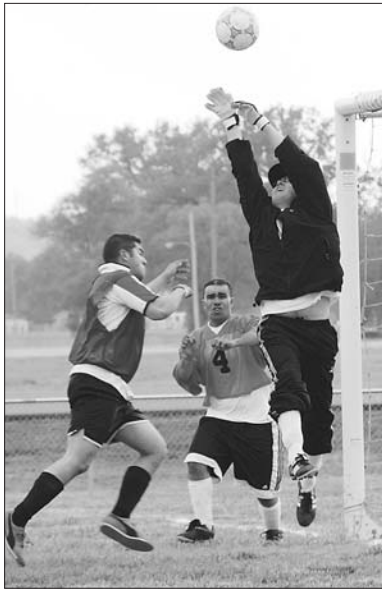
Though a majority of Soldiers of the 70th Engineer Battalion were deployed, family members, the battalion's Rear Detachment and families of former 70th Eng. Bn. members participated in the battalion's annual Toy March Dec. 3 on Main Post.

Participants carried toys to donate to Operation Santa Claus. The toys were for distribution to families in need living at Fort Riley and in surrounding areas.

The Fort Riley Combined Federal Campaign raised \$181,377-92 for 2005. The six-week campaign exceeded its \$150,000 goal.

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Post/Blackmon
The 331st Sig. Co. goalie, Michael Hobbie, knocks the ball away while 1st Eng. Bn.'s Jesus Cuartas tries for the ball. Signal player Justin Bates (4) stands ready to defend.

Sports brighten off-duty time

Football

While working to stand up a new brigade at Fort Riley, members of the Big Red One's new 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team took a break to battle on the football field Nov. 5. The Headquarters and Headquarters Company "Dragons" beat the 2nd Battalion, 32nd Field Artillery, "Patriots" 33-6 in the championship game.

Each of the brigade's six battalions had a separate team for the Dragon Bowl.

Company C, 1st Engineer Battalion, won three straight games in bone-chilling temperatures to claim the 2005 post flag football title Dec. 4 at Sturgis Stadium. The Engineers defeated players of Company A, 1st Battalion, 190th Field Artillery (Military Police Provisional).

That team claimed the 97th Military Police Battalion Pig Bowl championship Oct. 21. Its players defeated the 523rd Military Police Detachment, 39-8. The bowl is part of quarterly sports activity days sponsored by the 924th MP Bn., which had recently been reflagged as the 97th MP Bn.

A former star running back for the Junction City High School Blue Jays returned to the area in 2005. Sgt. EmcLean Taylor, a cook, was stationed with the 977th Military Police Company at Fort Riley.

talion, 34th Armor.

Soccer

The 331st Signal Company was named regular season soccer champion in early May after the game against the 924th Military Police Company ended in a 0-0 tie. Signal Company lost the championship May 11 to 1st Engineer Battalion, 2-1.

Softball

Company B, 101st Forward Support Battalion, lost to Medical Department Activity in the company-level softball season championship, 18-0. The next day, FSB beat MEDDAC in the battalion championship, 18-15.

Fort Riley's all-Army softball player, Tammy Baldwin, was named Most Valuable Player at

the 2005 Amateur Softball Association's Women's National Open Championship Sept. 16-18 in Oklahoma City. The Armed Forces team won a five-game series championship.

Other sports

A caravan carrying Kansas City Royals players visited some Fort Riley Soldiers Jan. 28.

The 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, Soldiers were visited by Royals' pitcher Jeremy Affeldt, catcher John Buck, Royals Hall of Fame member and Wichita Wranglers' Manager Frank White, former outfielder Brian McCrae, broadcaster Ryan Lefebvre and Sluggerrr, the Royals' mascot.

On June 14, the Royals honored Sgt. Dustin Kelly of Company A, 1st Engineer Battalion and Sgt. Norman Inch II of Headquarters and Headquarters Company,

1st Eng. Bn., during Military Appreciation Night. Kelly threw out the first pitch and Inch stood in as catcher during the first pitch.

The Fort Riley Army Modern Combatives team placed fourth in an Army-wide tournament in November at Fort Benning, Ga. Spe. Adrian De La Cruz of 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, won the 170-pound weight class.

Forty-five Fort Riley Soldiers teamed up with professional wall-eye anglers for a day of fishing Sept. 13 at Milford Lake. Fishermen were competing in the In-Fisherman Professional Walleye Trail 2005 Mercury Marine Championship.

Kansas State University student Joe Moore from Green Kan., won the 10-mile race in July at the post's annual Prairie Run.

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Basketball

In a preseason basketball tournament Nov. 22, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 34th Armor, defeated Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 24th Infantry Division (Mech). Three Infantry technical fouls in a row helped Armor capture the 31-18 victory.

Department Predators defeated Got Lean in the final game of the SCION SLAM 3-on-3 tournament May 14. The traveling one-day tournament began in early March and visited 34 U.S. military installations. The Predators team was made up of members assigned to Company A, 1st Bat-

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Post/Heronemus
A powder of snow dusts a large tree that toppled onto family housing in Ellis Heights during a Nov. 27 tornado that caused significant damage on post.

The real deal

Tornadoes test Fort Riley emergency response plan

Eight families on post had to move to temporary housing on post and at the Day's Inn in Junction City after a tornado touched down in the Ellis Heights housing area the afternoon of Nov. 27. No one suffered any injuries related to the storm.

Thirty-seven buildings containing 100 family homes suffered some damage. The cost to repair housing damage caused by the tornado was expected to be about \$900,000.

It was reported that residential life in Ellis Heights was returning to normal almost two weeks after the tornado hit. Most of the damage was to siding, shingles and windows in the homes and to trees.

Post contractors worked to replace carpeting and clean up shattered glass, repair displaced flues to protect against possible gas leaks and clean up debris outside, including pruning trees. Best Pest Control developed a replacement plan for trees. Trees will be replanted in March and April.

Another tornado touched down in the post cemetery the same afternoon. Most of that cleanup was completed by

Dec. 5. Burials were already planned for Dec. 7 and 9. Forty-four white Veterans Administration headstones were damaged by the storm. Directorate of Logistics personnel were in the process of ordering replacements.

About 50 tree stumps needed to be removed from the cemetery because 60 percent of the trees had been toppled.

Lt. Col. Michael Apodaca, post provost marshal, said the post had likely been hit by several small tornadoes at about the same time. The Ellis Heights and cemetery tornadoes touched down four seconds apart, and Apodaca said two or three more were seen touching down on post ranges.

Military police sent spotters to points on post an hour before the tornadoes hit.

For the past two years, Fort Riley officials have conducted natural disaster exercises to test the post's emergency personnel readiness and emergency response capabilities.

The last exercise was conducted June 6, 2005. The previous year's exercise was set in the Ellis Heights neighborhood.



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